TapWeekly From the creators of Tap Magazine
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The #1 Resource for Palm OS Users!

Here Come the Color Apps

By Rick Broida

In the wake of Palm's Feb. 22 introduction of the color-capable Palm IIIc (see Tap Weekly #23), dozens of software vendors have announced new or updated products that will support the color screen. Some highlights:

Game On! Unsurprisingly, entertainment software is leading the color brigade. Atelier Software plans to release an updated version of SimCity (pictured) later this month, while Astraware will give arcade fans a dose of action with a colorized Zap!2000 (below right). BackupBuddy Software has already done the same with Cuepert (below center) and Mines, a new adaptation of the classic game MineSweeper. Seahorse Software has unveiled color versions of eight card games, including Euchre and Crazy 8's. Finally, IS/Complete will soon give the color treatment to seven IR-playable games.

It's a Date Pimlico Software's coveted Date Book replacement DateBk3 is soon to become DateBk4, complete with "extensive color support," according to the developer. You'll be able to apply colors to categories, to-do items, calendar entries and more.

Bug Brigade Iain Barclay's classic BugMe! reminder program (below left) has always aspired to emulate Sticky Notes. It just got a whole lot closer.

Paint It Great Users of TealPoint Software's TealPaint have created some masterful works in black and white. With the new version's color palette, the sky's the limit.

You Are Here Evolutionary Systems' HandMap (below center) is among the first Palm mapping programs to support color.

Two Plusses Finally, Hands High Software's Memo Plus and To Do Plus—popular Memo Pad and To Do List replacements—will add support for color drawings.

News

New Palm VII Query Apps

More major companies are hopping on the Palm Query App bandwagon. Buy.com, an e-tailer known for having some of the lowest prices on the Web (especially on Palm devices), now lets you shop from the comfort of your Palm VII. CNBC's new PQA delivers previews and intraday coverage of major stock markets. And FreeReal Time.com's Query App offers real-time stock quotes and other financial information. (The service is free, but you still incur Palm.Net connection charges).

Palm's IP-Oh!

In case you've been living under a rock, the IPO for Palm, Inc., stormed Wall Street on March 2. By day's end, the shares had tripled in value, becoming the fourth most actively traded issue on the Nasdaq and making national news.

Handspring Promises 1-Week Delivery

Want a Visor—fast? Handspring says that new orders will ship in just one week. Meanwhile, the long-awaited Springboard modem is finally shipping—though it's now on backorder.

NewSoftware

BarTender 1.0

Fans of the classic arcade game Tapper, rejoice! This adaptation challenges you to sling suds to the customers without breaking too many glasses. *WilperSoft, http://south.dynip.com/~wilper/software.html*

Pool 1.12

Finally, pool comes to the Palm! This sound-enhanced 8-ball simulation supports one or two players, and even lets you play against another Palm user (via IR). Looks like another winner from the creator of the excellent Tank Pilot. *Giles Goddard, www.pdabusiness.com*

SilverScreen 1.2

We just had to mention this way-cool application launcher again. The latest version adds support for OS 3.5, the Palm VII, and customizable hot-spots. It's a must-try. *Pocket Sensei, www.pocketsensei.com*

MiniReview AutoLock $15, Catamount Software, www.catamount.com

Just how sensitive is the data you store in your Palm device? If you're like most users, you'd be loathe to let it fall into the wrong hands. Alas, it's a hard fact of life that Palm devices are frequently lost or stolen, which is why a program like AutoLock makes so much sense.

Put simply, AutoLock locks your handheld, requiring the entry of a numeric PIN before you (or anyone else) can gain access. That PIN, which can be between 1 and 8 digits, is tapped in using a keypad that appears at specified times.

You can configure AutoLock to engage once an hour, once per day, or every time you turn on your Palm device. If you choose the latter, you can specify how long the unit must be off before it locks. This interval can range from 30 seconds to 12 hours.

When AutoLock is engaged, you're shown the date, time, numeric keypad, and a customizable one-line message (ideal for a password reminder or your name and phone number). Tap the correct PIN and you're in. Tap the wrong PIN and you're stonewalled. According to the author, the software is reset-proof.

Because AutoLock requires OS 3.5, we had to test it on a Palm IIIc. At first the unit locked up (and not in the good way). After a reset, we were able to enter our PIN—but then the IIIc crashed. A few resets later, the crashes stopped.

AutoLock is a smartly designed and valuable tool that beats the standard Palm OS security features hands-down. But until the author fixes one very serious bug, we can't recommend it. *–Rick Broida*

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